

REMARKS

The helpful and courteous interview granted the undersigned attorney on April 21, 2005 is gratefully acknowledged.

The specification has been amended to obviate the objections raised by the examiner and to concert issued Patent No. 6,722,298.

As discussed during the interview, Applicant's invention relates to a method for replacing power steering fluid in a power steering reservoir of an automobile wherein after the machine has been energized, the "ADD" button 221 and "DRAIN button 227" may flow fluid through clean and used fluid conduit hoses described on pages 37 and 38. With the ball valves 223 and 225 open the operator may depress the ADD and DRAIN buttons 221 and 227 alternatively to repeatedly drain and fill reservoir observing the fluid level in the power steering reservoir (Figs. 1-5) to flush out the reservoir. The operator may turn the steering wheel fully to the left and right and then back to center and check the color of the fluid in the reservoir or being extracted from the reservoir. As set forth at the bottom of page 38 this procedure is repeated until satisfactory color is observed and the reservoir may be then topped off.

As discussed during the foregoing interview, Dixon is not concerned with fully evacuating and cleaning the reservoir but, rather, focuses on simultaneous withdrawal and addition of the fluid as set forth in the middle column 3. He purposely provides for add mixture of the fluids and relies on on/off switches to simultaneously flow the fluid. To allow alternate extraction and then addition as provided for by Applicant would be contrary to Dixon's objectives.

Viken relies on a reciprocating piston which adds and extracts the same volume of fluid and currently thus teaching away from the alternate adding and extraction of fluid and repeating the process until the desired color of fluid is observed in or extracted from the reservoir.

Claim 24 calls for the process of alternately actuating the drain and supply pumps with the switch to repeatedly drain and fill the power steering fluid reservoir, rotating the steering wheel to a full extent in opposite directions and observing the fluid in the power steering reservoir and "repeating said alternately actuating and rotating steps until a fluid color observed in said observing step is sufficient to indicate a complete power steering fluid exchange." This is contrary to Dixon who provides for concurrent flow and is not concerned with full evacuation of the reservoir and the replacement with clean fluid until the desired coloration is observed.

Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and is further restricted.

Claim 35 was indicated allowable and claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 35.

Claims 28 – 34 and 36 – 39 all depend from claim 27 and are likewise be allowable.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the step of observing the replacement fluid and repeating the alternately actuating step until the replacement fluid in the reservoir is made up of substantially only fresh fluid. This is contrary to Dixon.

Claims 41 and 42 depend from claim 40 and likewise believed to be allowable.

Claim 43 recites a method of exchanging fluid in a reservoir containing used fluid of one color indicating it is used fluid by placing a portable housing adjacent the power steering reservoir with the housing including a power steering fluid receptacle with fresh fluid of a second color, connecting drain and supply conduits and operating a hand held remote pump actuator to a drain and supply pump and alternately actuating the drain pump to withdraw fluid and then actuating the supply pump to add fresh fluid and repeating the operating step until the color of the fluid in the reservoir reaches a color indicating the used fluid has been substantially replaced. This claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

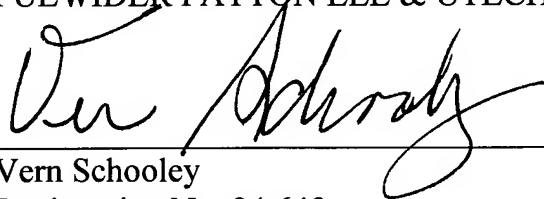
Claim 44 similar to claim 43 except that the operating step includes operating a hand held remote pump actuator to achieve the results.

From the foregoing, it will be clear that Applicant has made a valuable contribution to the art of exchanging power steering fluid. It is believed the claims in the case patentably distinguish over the art and consequently early notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By:



Vern Schooley

Registration No. 24,649

200 Oceangate, Suite 1550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562) 432-0453
Facsimile: (562) 435-6014
Customer No. 27629
VS:rmk